AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-19 (deleted).

20 (currently amended). A method for obtaining an average T_{max} of Diclofenac after 5-30 minutes following administration in a human patient in need of such a treatment, said average T_{max} having a coefficient of variation (CV%) lower than 70% which comprises orally administering to said patient a pharmaceutical formulation containing Diclofenac in acid and/or salt form together with an alkali metal bicarbonate selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate and mixtures thereof and customary excipients and adjuvants, wherein said alkali metal bicarbonate is present in an amount of from 20 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac, and wherein said pharmaceutical formulation further contains a flavoring substance selected from the group consisting of mint, aniseed, ammonium glycyrrhizinate and mixtures thereof, whereby palatability and astringency effects are eliminated.

21 (previously amended). A method according to claim 20 wherein said T_{max} of Diclofenac is reached after 13-27 minutes since administration.

22 (previously amended). A method according to claim 20 wherein said pharmaceutical formulation contains from 10 to 60 mg of Diclofenac in acid and/or salt form.

23 (previously amended). A method according to claim 22 wherein said alkali metal bicarbonate is present in an amount of from 40 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

25 (previously amended). A method according to claim 20 wherein said formulation is a pharmaceutical formulation for oral use comprising at least an immediate release layer and at least a delayed release layer, said immediate release layer containing Diclofenac in acid and/or salt form together with an alkali metal bicarbonate selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate and mixtures thereof and customary excipients and adjuvants, wherein said alkali metal bicarbonate is present in an amount of from 20 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

26 (previously amended). A method according to claim 25 wherein said second delayed release layer also contains Diclofenac as the active principle.

27 (previously amended). A method according to claim 25 wherein said alkali metal bicarbonate is present in an amount of from 40 to 80 % by weight based on the weight of Diclofenac.

28 (previously amended). A method according to claim 27 wherein said Diclofenac is present in its potassium and/or sodium salt form.

29 (new). A method according to claim 20 wherein said Diclofenac is present in its potassium and/or sodium salt form.